

**Meeting of the
Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District
Thursday December 8, 2022
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Meeker Library
490 Main Street, Meeker, CO 81641**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Directors Present
Kelly Sheridan
Ben Rodgers
Walter Proctor
Anthony Theos
David Smith
Shawn Welder
Bailey Franklin

Staff Present

Scott Grosscup, District's Attorney

Others Present

Erin Light, Division Engineer
Betty Kracht, Water Commissioner

Approval of Minutes from June 30, 2022

Director Proctor moved to approve the minutes from the June 30, 2022, meeting as presented, Director Franklin seconded, all in favor.

Public Comment

There were no members from the public wishing to discuss items not on the agenda.

Budget Hearing

Director Proctor moved to open the hearing on the 2023 Budget, Director Franklin seconded, all in favor.

Scott reported that a draft budget was circulated on October 13, 2022 and notice of the hearing was posted in the Craig Daily Press and the Rio Blanco Herald Times. He had not received any comments on the proposed budget. Scott stated that the budget had changed slightly since the previous budget to reflect more accurately anticipated 2022 expenses and to revise property tax revenues based on updated assessments. Discussion followed.

Director Proctor moved to approve the Resolution to Set Mill Levy 2023 as presented at 0.209 mills, Director Franklin seconded, all in favor.

Director Proctor moved to approve the Resolution to Adopt Budget, Director Theos seconded, all in favor.

Director Smith moved to approve the Resolution to Appropriate Sums of Money, Director Theos seconded, all in favor.

There being no further discussion, Director Proctor moved to close the 2023 Budget Hearing, Director Rogers seconded, all in favor.

Director Re-Appointments

Scott reported the court reappointed Directors Sheridan, Smith, and Theos to serve an additional term to expire in October of 2026. The terms for Directors Welder, Franklin and Proctor are set to expire in October of 2023.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Director Franklin presented the year-to-date budget expenses and balances. Director Proctor moved to pay Balcomb & Green its outstanding invoices and to pay for the December billing provided it does not exceed budgeted amounts to cover legal fees, and other expenses, and to approve payments to Applegate Group for services rendered through the year provided such amount remains within the previously authorized amount of \$15,000 director Smith seconded, all in favor.

Lake Avery Enlargement

Scott stated that Applegate Group is in the process of conducting its Dam Breach and Flood Hydrology Analysis. However, since the proposal was first presented to the Board, the state modified its hydrology guidelines expanding the scope of the project. This results in the project extending into 2023. Director Franklin reported that Colorado Parks and Wildlife has had several meetings concerning its willingness to allow for an expansion of Lake Avery. Current leadership has not been in full support. And the Director level position is currently vacant. He indicated that CPW is considering future options for the reservoir. Discussion followed about CPW's interest in the expansion of Lake Avery.

Director Welder raised potential options of acquiring water rights in the Buckles Ditch and Coal Creek Feeder Ditch to possibly serve an enlarged Lake Avery. Discussion followed regarding the acquisition of these rights and the availability of grant funding and partner agencies.

No further action was taken. The Board expects to discuss options at its next meetings after it receives the report from Applegate Group.

Water Measurement Display

Director Proctor discussed the original concept behind a water measurement display that was to be located in Circle Park in Meeker and would have been a gravity flow system with a number of water measurement devices for public display and learning. However, the adjacent landowner is not willing to grant an easement that would be necessary for the display as envisioned. There are other options being explored including a pump and piped system that would be more expensive, or possible locations in Rangely, which would be more limited. Project proponents are continuing to look at options and have not finalized a proposal. Discussion followed. The Board had previously approved up to \$10,000 to support the creation of a water measurement display in Circle Park subject to the White River Conservation District obtaining additional funding. Any final proposal will need to be presented to the Board for consideration.

Wolf Creek Reservoir

The Bureau of Land Management has presented the District with an invitation to participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the development of Wolf Creek Reservoir and a proposed memorandum of understanding presenting the parties' responsibilities in such a process. Discussion followed on the pros and cons of such participation, including whether participation amounts to support or only being able to participate in the process as well as provide an understanding of how this process may take shape in a future application for the District to construct or enlarge a reservoir.

Director Proctor moved to approve participation as a cooperating agency and to enter into the proposed MOU with the Bureau and authorize Balcomb & Green to serve as its representative, Franklin seconded. The motion carried with Director Smith voting in opposition.

Lower Yampa Augmentation Plan

Division Engineer Light stated Moffat County, with the assistance of Wilson Water Group is working on an area-wide umbrella augmentation plan that would use water stored in Elk Head Reservoir. Scott indicated that he had participated in a call with the various parties as portions of the plan would include lands within the boundaries of the Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District. Moffatt County anticipates filing the water court application in the near future.

Administration of the White River

Division Engineer Light reported the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District has placed a call for the Taylor Draw power right, a 1966 priority in the amount of 620 cfs, effective December 1, 2022. This is the first time the White River mainstem has been administered. RBWCD uses its turbines to measure flows and reports weekly to DWR. Ms. Light indicated she would not honor the call if the reservoir spills. Water stored in the reservoir cannot be used to meet the demand. Questions were raised whether this was a futile call as it does not generate more water and the impacts on livestock watering without a water right decreed for that use and irrigation rights. Ms. Light indicated the request by RBWCD is for a continuous call and will result in less water available in the ditches. Discussion followed about the impacts to water users on the White River.

New Business

Scott indicated the State and Division Engineer, Water Division 6, have submitted the proposed Rules and Regulations for the installation of water measurement devices to the water court for adoption and final approval. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Read and approved this ____ day of _____ 2023.

Signed: _____

Attest: _____